

A
LETTER
 FROM HIS
MAJESTY.

TO
 The S P E A K E R of the C O M M O N S
 Assembled in Parliament.

WITH HIS
 Majesties Declaration
 ENCLOSED.

TOGETHER
 With the Resolve of the House thereupon.



Read in the House of Commons assembled in Parliament,
 Tuesday May 1. 1660.

L O N D O N, Printed by Edward Halliwell and Tho. Newcomb,
 Printers to the Honourable House of Commons, 1660.

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The Speaker of the Commons
Assembled in Parliament

WITH HIS
Majesties Decree and
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Tuesday May 1. 1660.

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Remedies for those Evils, and for the lasting Peace
Happiness and Security of the Kingdom.



people can be in any tolerable degree of happiness
out them; and therefore you may be assured
that we shall always look upon our Councils as
the best We can have, and as careful to preserve and
their Privileges; and as careful to preserve and

Charles R.



Ruffy and Wel Beloved,
We Greet you well. In
these great and insup-
portable afflictions and
calamities under which
the poor Nation hath
been so long exercised,
and by which it is so
near exhausted, Wee
cannot think of a more
Natural and proper Re-

medy, then to resort to those for Counsel and Advice,
who have seen and observed the first beginning of
our Miseries, the progress from bad to worse, and
the mistakes and mis-understandings which have pro-
duced and contributed to our present calamities, which
were not intended; and after many revolutions,
and the observation of, what hath attended them,
are now trusted by Our good Subjects to repair the
Breaches which are made, and to provide proper
Remedies.

Remedies for those Evils, and for the lasting Peace, Happines and Security of the Kingdome.

We do assure you upon Our Royal word, that none of our Predecessors have had a greater esteem of Parliaments, then We have, in our judgment, as well as from our obligation; We do beleave them to be so vital a part of the constitution of the Kingdom, and so necessary for the Government of it, that We do know, neither Prince, nor people can be in any tolerable degree happy without them; and therefore you may be confident, that we shall always look upon their Councils as the best We can receive, and shall be as tender of their Priviledges, and as carefull to preserve and protect them, as of that which is most dear to Our self, and most necessary for Our own preservation. And as this is our opinion of Parliaments, that their Authority is most necessary for the Government of the Kingdom, so we are most confident, that you beleave, and find that the preservation of the Kings Authority is as necessary for the preservation of Parliaments, and that it is not the name, but the right constitution of them, which can prepare, and apply proper remedies for those Evils, which are grievous to the People, and which can thereby establish their peace and security. And therefore we have not the least doubt, but that you will be as tender in, and as jealous of any thing that may infringe Our Honor, or impair Our Authority, as of your own Liberty and Property, which is best preserved, by preserving the other.

How

How farre we have trusted you in this great affair, and how much it is in your power to restore the Nation to all that it hath lost, and to redeem it from any infamy it hath undergone, and to make King and People as happy as they ought to be, you will finde by our inclosed Declaration (a Copy of which we have likewise sent to the House of Peers) and you will easily believe that we would not voluntarily, and of our self have repos'd so great a trust in you, but upon an entire confidence, that you will not abuse it, and that you will proceed in such a manner, and with such due consideration of us, who have trusted you, that we shall not be ashamed of declyning other assistance (which we have assurance of) and repairing to you for more natural and proper Remedies, for the Evils we would be freed from; nor sorry that we have bound up our own Interest so intirely, with that of our Subjects, as that we refer it to the same persons to take care of us, who are trusted to provide for them. We look upon you as wise and dispassionate men, and good Patriots, who will raise up those Banks & Fences which have been cast down, & who will most reasonably hope the same prosperity wil again spring from those Roots from which it hath heretofore, and always grown; nor can we apprehend that you will propose any thing to us, or expect any thing from us, but what we are as ready to give, as you to receive. If you desire the advancement and propagation of the Protestant Religion, we have by our constant profession and practise of it, given sufficient testimony to the world, That neither the unkindness of those of the same faith towards us, nor the civilities and obligations from
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those

those of a contrary profession (of both which we have had abundant Evidence) could in the least degree startle us, or make us swarve from it; and nothing can be proposed to manifest our zeal and affection for it, to which we will not readily consent. And we hope in due time, our self to propose somewhat to you for the propagation of it, that will satisfie the world, that we have always made it both our Care, and our Study, and have enough observed what is most like to bring disadvantage to it. If you desire security for those who in these calamitous times, either wilfully or weakly have transgressed those bounds which were prescribed, and have invaded each others Rights; We have left to you to provide for their Security and Indemnity, and in such a way as you shall think Just and Reasonable, and by a just computation of what men have done and suffered, as neare as is possible, to take care that all men be satisfied, which is the surest way to suppress, and extirpate all such uncharitableness and animosity as might hereafter shake, and threaten that peace which for the present, might seem established. If there be a crying sinne, for which the Nation may be involved in the Infamy that attends it, we cannot do. but but that you will be as solicitous to redeem and vindicate the Nation from that guilt and Infamy, as we can be. If you desire that reverence and obedience may be paid to the fundamental Laws of the Land, and that Justice may be equally and impartially administered to all men; It is that which we desire to be sworn to our self, and that all persons in Power and Authority should be so too. In a word, there is nothing that you can propose, that may make the King-
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dome happy, which we will not contend with you to compats ; and upon this confidence and assurance , We have thought fit to send you this Declaration, that you may, as much as is possible, at this distance, see our heart , which when God shall bring us neerer together (as we hope he will do shortly) will appear to you very agreeable to what we have professed , and we hope that we have made that right Christian use of our affliction , and that the observation and experience we have had in other Countries , hath been such, as that We, and we hope all our Subjects shall be the better for what we have seen and suffered. We shall add no more but our prayers to Almighty God , That he will so blesse your Councils, and direct your Endeavours, that his Glory and Worship may be provided for, and the Peace, Honour, and Happiness of the Nation may be established upon those Foundations which can best support it ; and so we bid you farewell.

*Given at our Court at Breda this 4. day of April
1660. in the twelfth year of our Raign.*

Supercribed

*To our Trusty and well-beloved
the Speaker of the House
of Commons.*

(7)
 than any other which we will not say and wish you to
 compare, and use a little confidence and judgment. We
 have been told that you think it is a good one, and you
 may be much mistaken, but this is a matter of
 fact, which when God has said is never to be
 doubted, we will be greatly assisted in your
 judgment, which we have promised, and we have
 made that promise in our own
 light, and that the observation and experience we
 have had in our own minds, have been such as that
 we and we hope all our subjects shall be the better
 for what we have said and offered. We shall add no
 more but our prayers to Almighty God, that he will
 bless your Councils and direct your kind actions,
 that his Glory and Worth may be provided for and
 the peace, harmony and happiness of the Nation may
 be established upon those foundations which can best
 support it; and so we bid you farewell.

Given at our Court at White Hall the 4 day of April
 1660. in the ninth year of our reign.

Superscribed

To our Trusty and well beloved
 the Speaker of the House
 of Commons.

(i)
HIS
MAJESTIES
DECLARATION

OF **CHARLES REX**, son of said



CHARLES, By the Grace
of God, King of England,
Scotland, France, and Ireland,
Defender of the Faith, &c.
To all our loving Subjects
of what Degree or Quality
loever, Greeting. If the
General Distraction and Confusion, which
is spread over the whole Kingdom, hath not
awaken all men to a Desire, and Longing,
that those Wounds which have so many
years together been kept bleeding, may be
bound up, all we can say will be to no pur-
pose: however, after this long Silence,
we have thought it Our Duty to Declare,
how much we desire to contribute there-
unto; and that, as we can never give over
the hope in good time to obtain the Posses-
sion of that Right, which God, and Na-
ture hath made Our Due; So we do make
it Our dayly Suit to the Divine Provi-
dence, that he will, in Compassion to Us,
and Our Subjects, after so long Grief,
and Sufferings, remit, and put Us into a
quiet and peaceable Possession of that Our
Right, with as little Blood, and Da-
mage

mage to Our People as is possible: Nor do we desire more to enjoy what is Ours, then that all Our Subjects may enjoy what, by Law is theirs, by a full, and entire Administration of Justice throughout the Land, and by extending Our Mercy where it is wanted, and deserved.

And to the end, that the fear of punishment, may not engage any conscious, to themselves of what is past, to a perseverance in guilt for the future, by opposing the quiet, and happiness of their Country, in the Restoration both of King, Peers, and People, to their Just, Antient, and Fundamental Rights, we do by these presents Declare, That we do grant a Free and General Pardon, which we are ready, upon demand, to pass under Our Great Seal of England, to all Our Subjects of what Degree, or Quality soever, who within forty days after the publishing hereof, shall lay hold upon this Our Grace, and Favor, and shall, by any publick Act, Declare their being so, and that they return to the Loyalty and Obedience of good Subjects; Excepting onely such persons, as shall hereafter be excepted by Parliament: Those onely excepted, let all Our Subjects, how faulty soever, rely upon the word of a King, solemnly given by this present Declaration, That no Crime whatsoever, committed against Us, or Our Royal Father, before the Publication of this, shall ever rise in judgement, or be brought in Question against any of them, to the least embarrasment of them, either in their Lives, Liberties,

of Estates, or (as far forth as lies in Our Power) so much as to the prejudice of their Reputations, by any Reproach, or token of distinction from the rest of Our best Subjects: we desiring, and ordaining that henceforward all Notes of Discord, Separation, and Difference of Parties, be utterly abolished among all Our Subjects, whom we invite, and comare to a perfect union among themselves, under Our Protection, for the Redressment of Our just Rights, and thereof, in a free Parliament, by which, upon the word of a King, we will be advised.

And because the passion, and uncharitableness of the times, have produced several opinions in Religion, by which men are engaged in parties, and animosities against each other, which when they shall hereafter write in a freedom of conversation, will be composed, or better understood: we do Declare a Liberty to tender Consciences, and that no man shall be disquieted, or called in question, for Differences of opinion in matter of Religion, which do not disturb the peace of the Kingdom, and that we shall be ready to consent, to such an Act of Parliament, as upon mature deliberation shall be offered to us, for the full granting that Indulgence.

And because in the continued distractions of so many years, and so many and great Revolutions, many Grants and Purchases of Estates have been made to, and by many Officers, Soldiers, and others, who are now possessed of the same, and who may be lyable to Actions at Law, upon several

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Titles, we are likewise willing, that all such Differences, and all things relating to such Grants, Sales, and Purchases shall be determined in Parliament; which can best provide for the full Satisfaction of all men who are concerned.

And we do further Declare, That we will be ready to consent to any Act, in Acts of Parliament to the purposes aforesaid, and for the full Satisfaction of all Arrears due to the Officers, and Soldiers of the Army, under the Command of General Monk, and that they shall be received into Our Service, upon as good pay, and conditions as they now enjoy.

Given under Our Signe Manual, and Wyth Signet, at Our Court at Breda, this ^{4th} 14th Day of April, 1660, in the twelfth year of Our Reign.

Tuesday May 1. 1660,

Resolved upon the question by the Commons Assembled in Parliament (*nemine contradicente*)

That a Committee be appointed to prepare an Answer to His Majesties Letter, expressing the great and joyful Sense of this House of His Gracious Office, and their humble and hearty Thanks to His Majestie for the same, and with professions of their Loyalty and Duty to His Majestie; and that this House will give a speedy Answer to His Majesties Gracious Propositions.

Resolved, &c. (*nemine contradicente*)

That the Letters from His Majestie both that to this House and that to the Lord General, with His Majesties Declaration which came inclosed, and the Resolves of this House thereupon be forthwith Printed and Published.

Witness My Clarke of the Commons